

to the power of the direct rays of the sun. After crossing the snow-fields, and climbing, with difficulty, a wall of rocks, about 300 feet high, M. Berger arrived at the crater. The crater is not of the usual more or less circular shape, but consists of numerous fissures and spalts in very rocky ground. From these narrow openings a white steam of sulphur and water was issuing with great force and with a roaring noise. All the rocks which in strange shapes surround the crater are completely covered with light yellow sulphur crystals. From the largest rocky fissures sulphur also, in the form of a semi-fluid pap, was discovered to be issuing. No lava was found, and no smoke except the white sulphur steam. M. Berger supposes that when the sulphur stored up in the interior of the mountain, and which is given off as indicated above, becomes exhausted, the activity of the volcano will cease; possibly, before that time, the clefts in the rocks will have been closed up by sulphur crystals in the same way as those met with lower down the mountain. Two photographs of the crater were obtained. The descent was rapidly accomplished.

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### Obituary.

**Captain William Chimmo, R.N.**—We regret to hear of the death of our much-respected colleague, Captain W. Chimmo, which event occurred at his residence, Westdowne, Weymouth, on the 30th of October last. Captain Chimmo had distinguished himself in his time by the interest and value of the scientific observations, both physical and biological, which he made during the various surveying expeditions on which he was employed, for a long series of years, by the Hydrographical Department of the Navy. Papers on these objects and *resumés* of official reports were contributed by him from time to time to our Society, and were published in the 'Journal' and 'Proceedings.' The first was an account of his voyage, in 1856, from New South Wales along the northern and north-western shores of Australia to the mouth of the Victoria River, which he contributed to the 'Proceedings' (old series), vol. i. p. 255. A second paper was entitled a "Visit to the North-East Coast of Labrador, during the autumn of 1867," and was published in the 'Journal,' vol. xxxviii. p. 258, illustrated by a chart of the 300 miles of coastline which he then surveyed, in H.M.S. *Gannet*. Subsequently, in the 'Proceedings,' vol. xii. p. 92, was published a paper giving an account of the deep-sea soundings and temperature and biological observations made by him in the Gulf Stream, in 1868; and in 1871 ('Proceedings' vol. xv. p. 384) a description of the curious volcanic island of Cayagan Sulu, off the north coast of Borneo. He also published, as separate works, the 'Voyage of H.M.S. *Torch*, from Sydney to the Gulf of Carpentaria and Batavia' (London, 1857), and the 'Natural History of the *Euplectella aspergillum* (Venus' Flower Basket), from the Philippine Islands,' with plates (1878).

Captain Chimmo entered the Royal Navy in 1841. As midshipman he saw hard service in the first Chinese war, and was present in the operations on the Canton River, and at the capture of Wu-Sung, Cha-pu, and Chiang Kiang-fu. He served in the *Herald* (Captain Kellett) during great part of the surveying voyage of this

vessel in the Pacific and along the west coast of America to Behring Strait, between 1845 and 1851, passing his examination in seamanship in January 1848, and becoming acting-mate, and afterwards acting-lieutenant of the *Herald*, and in 1850 was promoted to the rank of lieutenant. In 1852 he was appointed to the command of the steam vessel *Torch*, employed in the survey of the Fiji Islands and Western Pacific. In 1856 he received his appointment for special service to the *Junco* (Captain S. G. Fremantle), during which he carried out the search expedition to the north-western coast of Australia already mentioned. In May 1858, he commanded the *Seagull*, gunboat, tender to the *Porcupine*, and was employed on the survey of the north-western coast of Scotland; serving afterwards for some two years on shore in the Hydrographical Department. Receiving his promotion as commander in 1864, he was employed in the following year on the North American and West Indies station, in command of H.M.S. *Gannet*, auxilliary surveying vessel, in which he conducted with ability and success the coast survey of Labrador, already alluded to, and the surveys of the Island of Trinidad and the Bay of Fundy, subsequently investigating the Gulf Stream and carrying a line of deep-sea soundings across the Atlantic, of which mention has already been made. In 1868 and the two following years, in command of the *Nassau*, he was engaged in exploring the islands of the Eastern Archipelago and the Sulu Sea, and in 1870 examined the Red Sea with a view to selecting sites for lighthouses. On completing this work he carried a line of deep sea soundings from Ceylon to Java, and thence up the China Sea to Hong Kong, and afterwards surveyed the western part of the Sulu Sea and the channels thence to the Celebes Sea.

He retired from active employment, with the rank of captain, in October 1873. His long-continued and eminent services have gained for him a high position in the records of the scientific branch of the Navy, which contains the names of so many illustrious officers. He had been a Fellow of our Society since 1857.

**Captain Thomas Wright Blakiston, R.A.**—The Society has lost one of its most distinguished members by the death of this adventurous and competent traveller, who gained considerable reputation thirty years ago by his survey of the middle and upper course of the Yang-tsze-kiang, from Yo-chau to Ping-shan. The survey, it will be remembered by those who keep themselves informed of the progress of Chinese geography, was accomplished during the journey, famous in those days, of Lieut.-Colonel Sarel, Dr. Barton, the Rev. S. Schereschewsky, and Blakiston, in 1861. He died, as we are informed by his brother, Mr. Matthew Blakiston, F.R.G.S., on the 15th of October last, at San Diego, on the coast of California, at which health resort he had arrived only a few days previously from his residence in New Mexico.

Captain Blakiston was born at Lymington, Hants, on the 27th of December, 1832. He received his education at St. Paul's School, Southsea, whence in due course, in December 1851, he entered the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich. Having completed his training he received a commission in the Royal Artillery, and served in England, Ireland, and North America until his battery was ordered for the Crimea, in the spring of 1855. Here he remained, serving in the operations before Sebastopol, until the fall of that fortress. When the Palliser Expedition was organised for the purpose of exploring the country lying between Canada and the Rocky Mountains, he was appointed, at the instance of the Royal Society, and on the recommendation of Sir Edward Sabine, a member of the expeditionary party, charged with the duty of conducting the magnetic, temperature, and other observations. He was occupied during the autumn and winter of 1857-8 in the Hudson's Bay Territory and in Western Canada. When the expedition moved on towards the Rocky Mountains in the following summer (1858), he ascended and